

**REMARKS**

This is in response to the Official Action currently outstanding with respect to the above-identified application, which Official Action the Examiner has designated as being FINAL

The present application was originally filed with Claims 1 - 7. By the previous Amendment, Claims 2 - 3 and 5 - 7 were amended; Claims 1 and 4 were canceled, without prejudice; and New Claims 8 and 9 were added. Accordingly, Claims 2, 3 and 5 - 9 constituted the claims under active prosecution in this application at the time of the issuance of the currently outstanding FINAL Official Action.

Claims 2 and 7 are currently rejected and Claims 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9 are currently allowed. By the foregoing Amendment Applicant proposes that rejected Claims 2 and 7 be canceled, without prejudice. The claims of this application (i.e., Claims 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9) as they will stand in the event that the Examiner grants entry to the foregoing amendment are set forth above along with appropriate status identifiers for each as required by the Rules.

In the currently outstanding Official Action, the Examiner has:

1. Acknowledged Applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 USC 119(a)-(d) or (f), and confirmed the receipt by the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the required certified copy of the priority document;
2. Confirmed that the drawings originally filed with this application on 29 December 1999 have been accepted as formal drawings;

3. Indicated that Claims 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9 stand allowed; and

4. Finally rejected Claims 2 and 7 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of a first Koerich, et al reference ("A System for Automatic Extraction of the User-Entered Data from Bankchecks", Proc. SIBGRAPI '98, Int. Symp. On Computer Graphics, Image Processing and Vision, October 20, 1998, pp. 270-277) hereinafter "Koerich 1" in view of a second Koerich, et al reference ( ) hereinafter "Koerich 2".

Further comment regarding items 1-3 above is deemed not to be necessary in these Remarks.

With respect to item 4 above, the Examiner's rejection of Claims 2 and 7 as being unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over the Koerich 1 reference in view of the Koerich 2 reference, Applicant by the foregoing Amendment proposes that rejected Claims 2 and 7 be canceled, without prejudice.

Applicant respectfully submits that since the only issues outstanding in the present prosecution relate to the patentability of Claims 2 and 7, the foregoing Amendment, if entered by the Examiner, will place this application in condition for allowance pursuant to the terms of 37 CFR 1.116.

For each and all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims the will remain pending in this application upon the entry of the foregoing Amendment (i.e., Claims 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9) now are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of the foregoing Amendment, reconsideration and allowance of the present application in response to this communication are respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that additional fees are not required in connection with the consideration of this response to the currently outstanding Official Action. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge and/or credit Deposit Account No. **04-1105**, as necessary, for the correct payment of all fees which may be due in connection with the filing and consideration of this communication.

Respectfully submitted,

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